

TOPIC: HIGHER EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM FOLLOW-UP:

**HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE – PRESENTATION BY
AIMS MCGUINNESS**

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I. SUMMARY

Following the Higher Education Symposium, some members of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) have expressed renewed interest Colorado's higher education system governance structure and how it compares to other state structures across the United States. This item is intended to serve as background and be a framework for the CCHE to have this discussion.

This discussion will include the following:

- Brief background of the work done by the Mission and Governance subcommittee from The Degree Dividend (Higher Education Strategic Plan); and
- Presentation by Aims McGuinness, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS). Supplemental information to be provided by Education Commission of the States (ECS).

II. BACKGROUND

The CCHE adopted the Degree Dividend (Higher Education Strategic Plan) in December 2010.

- The Mission & Governance subcommittee was charged with identifying the proper role, mission and governance structure of the state's higher education system.

Mission/Governance subcommittee members:

- Jim Lyons, Chair, HESP
- Ray Baker, HESP
- Terry Farina, HESP
- Hereford Percy, Vice Chair, CCHE member, 7th Congressional District
- Peter Han, Chief of Staff, Colorado School of Mines
- Dr. Steve Jordan, President, Metropolitan State College of Denver
- Dr. Linda Bowman, President, Community College of Aurora
- Gail Klapper, Director, Colorado Forum
- Father Mike Sheeran, President, Regis University
- Donald L. Kortz, Chairman, Fuller Real Estate
- Inta Morris, DHE Staff

On this issue, *The Degree Dividend* in part stated:

“The system of higher education should be structured to allow for the advancement of state priorities.

We need to keep and improve upon our integrated, tiered system of higher education, which has different admission criteria for students entering institutions at each tier. To govern this system, we need to implement more effective oversight that better balances institutional needs with statewide needs. We need an effective state agency with the responsibility to develop and direct policy to reach statewide goals and the ability to hold the system accountable for implementing these policies successfully.”

Two recommendations from *The Degree Dividend* included:

Maintain current governance structure.

- Maintain the current higher education governance structure, including institutional and system governing boards.
- This structure should continue to include a statewide oversight board—the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE)—with authority to implement broad statewide policy for higher education.

Enhance responsibility and authority of the CCHE.

Enhance the responsibility and authority of the CCHE in higher education policy to include:

- Articulating and advocating a vision for higher education and setting forth an agenda for higher education that is responsive to the state’s demographics, labor market and economic development needs.
- Serving as the leadership body on such policy issues as ensuring access to and successful completion of higher education course work for all Coloradoans.
- Compiling data on higher education, using common indicators and metrics, for the purposes of describing higher education in the state and ensuring accountability to meet state goals.
- Negotiating performance contracts with each institution to ensure state goals are being met.
- Coordinating with governing boards toward the goal of aligning strategic plans and state goals and priorities.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This item is for information purposes only; staff makes no recommendation.

Presentation and additional materials for discussion to be provided separately.